

MARCH 5, 2017

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street
Palm Desert, California 92260

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THE LADDER

SUNDAY OF ORTHODOXY

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert, CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,

Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kontaxis,

M.D.

Holy Communion Order

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

HUMILITY, PATIENCE & LOVE

In the exchange between Christ and Nathaniel, as we heard from the Gospel reading today, we see that Christ is True God, Who knows the soul of each person in the world—just as He knew Nathaniel, of whom He said, *“See a true Israelite in whom there is no deceit.”* (St. John 1:48)

In this way Nathaniel understood that Christ is truly God, Who knows the heartbeat of everyone. It is important for us to know this fact even today.

God took upon Himself the “image” of Man in that man was created in the Image of God. This reality of “the image” is emphatically expressed by means of the Holy Icons, the Restoration of which we commemorate today. Jesus is the One Who “judges the world,” as one of our Church hymns states, since He knows well our souls.

He heard Nathaniel’s question: *“Is it possible that anything good can come from Nazareth?”* This expression of doubt stands as a parallel to that of St. *Continued on page 2*

PRAYER vs. EXPECTATIONS – Great Lent is a time for increased prayer and it is an opportunity for us to reflect on the power of prayer. In this regard, we must, at the same time, allow Christ our God to speak into our souls through meditation of the Bible and participation in the Holy Church Services. In essence, prayer to Christ is the beginning of wisdom, which allows us to understand the love of God and our relationship with others. At our Bible Study last week, we noted that prayer helps us to understand ourselves, as well.

In this regard, we find rewarding relationships with God and with others by realizing that we might be asking God for things that are not beneficial for our souls. Along with this, we might also be expecting things from others that they are unable to offer, thereby creating in us feelings of disappointment, frustration and anger. For example, we cannot expect to receive oranges from an apple tree. The apple tree is unable to give us what we want and certainly cannot feel “reward” for making us happy. Prayer with love teaches us what we can do for others and what others are able to do for us.

In the Gospel of St. Matthew (7:9), Christ teaches that He knows us better than we know ourselves—just like He knew Nathaniel who was sitting under the fig tree. Let us trust Him that He will give us what we need, rather than what we want. Our Lord said: *“Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him, therefore pray like this: ‘Our Father Who art in heaven...’* +FR. THEODORE



Στην συζητησιν μεταξύ Χριστου και Ναθαναηλ, καθως ακουσαμεν κατα την αναγνωσιν της σημερινης Ευαγγελικης περικοπης, αντιλαμβανουμεν οτι ο Χριστος ειναι ο Αληθινος Θεος, ο Οποιος γνωριζει την ψυχην του καθε ανθρωπου του κοσμου – οπως εγνωρισε τον Ναθαναηλ, περι του οποιου ειπε: <Ιδε αληθως Ισραηλιτης εν ω δολος ουκ εστι.> (Ιωαν. 1:48).

Κατα αυτον τον τροπον, εκαταλαβε ο Ναθαναηλ οτι ο Χριστος ειναι ο Αληθινος Θεος, ο Οποιος γνωριζει το καθε καρδιακο παλμο του καθενος. Μαλιστα, το ιδιο καταλαμβανουμεν εμεις σημερα.

Ο Θεος ανελαβε την <εικονα> του ανθρωπου, ο οποιος ειναι πλασμενος κατα την <εικονα> του Θεου. Αυτη η πραγματικοτης ειναι εντονα εμφανης δια μεσου των αγιων εικονων, την αναστυλωσιν των οποιων μνημονευουμεν σημερα. Ο Χριστος, λοιπον, ειναι Εκεινος ο Οποιος <κρινει την γην,> οπως λεγει ενας υμνος της Εκκλησιας, ακριβως επιδη εξευρει λεπτομερως την ψυχικην μας ζωην.

Ειχε ακουση την ερωτησιν του Ναθαναηλ: <Εκ Ναζαρετ δυναται τι αγαθον ειναι;> Αυτη η εκφρασις αμφιβολιας στεκεται παραλληλη με εκεινην του Αγιου Θωμα μετα την Αναστασιν του Χριστου. Μαλιστα ο Χριστος δεν τιμωρει αυτον που αμφιβαλλει, αλλα τον τραβα κοντα Του. Αυτο ειναι το αποτελεσμα της προσευχης. Για αυτον τον λογον, η προσευχη ειναι το πιο σημαντικο εργον του ανθρωπου. Η Εκκλησια εχει κανονιση την περιοδο της Μ. Τεσσαρακοστης να ειναι ευκαιρια για να μαθουμεν περισσοτερα περι της προσευχης και να παραδωσουμεν τον εαυτον μας στο εργον της προσευχης.

+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

Thomas following Christ's Resurrection. Indeed, our Lord does not punish anyone who has doubts; instead, He draws one who doubts to Himself. This is the dynamic surrounding the purpose and the benefits of prayer. The Church has arranged Her liturgical life during the Lenten season to be an excellent opportunity for us to learn more how to pray and to commit ourselves to making the effort to pray.

Prayer does what the King David wanted: it *"creates a clean heart and a pure spirit."* (Psalm 50). It makes for one *"in whom there is no deceit."* Having *"no deceit"* is crucial in terms of dealing with life's many challenges. Quite often, we cause our own stress precisely because we have deceived others, or we want to deceive others – and most tragically, we deceive ourselves. The greatest of all deceptions is that sin does not exist and there is no need for Confession and repentance.

A *"clean heart and a pure spirit"* within each of us is something for which we should earnestly pray. Like the Lord's Prayer, the Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian addresses the heart of our relationship with God and with others: *"Lord and Master of my life: take away from me the spirit of meddling, pride, and greed. Give me, instead, the spirit of patience, humility, prudence and love. Grant to me a vision of my own faults and that I not condemn my brother."* Like St. Ephraim, we are all stung by the same *"spirits:"* pride, greed, idle talk. The anecdote to these qualities is found in the virtues of humility, patience and love. These are the virtues that, with the help of Christ our God, we can avoid condemning others. Judging others is the source of many conflicts. Resolving conflicts can happen when each judges one's self.

Sincerely praying for the virtues of humility, patience and love will change our behaviors, as Christ our God works within us. As our behavior becomes more positive and more rewarding, the behaviors of others change for the better, bringing out their best qualities. This is one way in which prayer changes our world, bringing others to salvation in Christ. Prayer is the expression of our Baptism, allowing our Baptism in Christ to beget the Baptism of others.

Fr. Alexander Schmemmann, in his book, *Great Lent*, reminds us that today's Epistle and Gospel readings have a particular meaning for those preparing for Holy Baptism. In Hebrews 11:40, we read that God has provided *"something better for us."* What is it? The answer is in today's Gospel: *"...[to see] heaven open and angels ascending and descending"* upon Christ. (St. Matthew 1:51). In other words: *"You catechumens, you who believe in Christ, you who want to be baptized, you who are preparing yourselves for Pascha (Easter) - you shall see the inauguration of the new age...the manifestation of the Kingdom."* (pg. 74)

+FR. THEODORE

PRAY FOR THE SICK: George Aeder, Adele Gallade, Mike & Kathy Ligeros, Nicholas Kyriakou, Argyroula Krespis (Nick Krespis' mother), Constantine Papapetru, Erika Aguilar, Nicholas Coussoulis (*Many of the faithful on our Prayer List face chronic or serious illness*).

HYMNS AND READINGS FOR TODAY'S CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

ANTIPHON I: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou..." (By the prayers of the Theotokos...)*

Verse 1— : The Lord reigns; He clothed Himself with majesty. The Lord clothed and girded Himself with power.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Verse 2— And He established the world, which shall not be moved. Who shall tell the mighty deeds of the Lord, who shall make all His praises heard?

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

Verse 3— Let those redeemed by the Lord say so, whom He redeemed from the hand of the enemy.

Refrain: *"Tes presvies tis Theotokou, soter, soston imas."*

Chanter(s): *Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages.*

Refrain: *"By the prayers of the Theotokos, Savior, save us."*

ANTIPHON II: *"Soston imas Ie Theou..." (Save us, O Son of God...)*

Verse 1— Let them give thanks to the Lord for His mercies and His wonders to the sons of men. Let them exalt Him in the assembly of the people and praise Him in the seat of the elders.

Refrain: *"Soston imas, Yie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Verse 2— The eyes of the Lord are on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy.

Refrain: *"Save us, O Son of God, Who is Risen from the dead, Alleluia."*

Verse 3— To hear the groaning of those bound, to set free the sons of the slain.

Refrain: *"Soston imas Ie Theou, O Anastas ek nekron, psallontas si alleluia."*

Doxa Patri ke Io ke Aghio Pnevmati ke nin ke aei ke eis tous eonas ton eonon.

People: *"O Monogenis Ios ke Logos tou Theou..." (O Only-Begotten Son and Word of God...)*

HYMNS FOR THE ENTRANCE WITH THE HOLY GOSPEL: ANTIPHON III - *Let heaven and earth praise Him, the seas and everything that moves in them. This is the day the Lord made; let us greatly rejoice and be glad therein. O Lord my God, I shall give thanks to You forever.*

Sunday Resurrection Hymn: *To fedron tis anastaseos... [Tone 4]...(When the tidings of the Resurrection from the glorious angel was proclaimed unto the women disciples and our ancestral sentence also had been abolished, to the Apostles with boasting did they proclaim that death is vanquished ever more and Christ our God has Risen from the dead and granted to the world the Great Mercy.)*

Hymn for this Sunday: *Tin achranton Eekona Sou...(We venerate Your immaculate icon, O good Lord, and entreat You to forgive our offences, O Christ our God. By Your own choice you were pleased to ascend the Cross in the flesh, to deliver us, whom You created, from our slavery to the foe. Therefore we cry to You with gratitude: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, by coming to save the world.)*

Hymn for St. George: *Os ton ehmaloton eleftherotis... (As the one who sets the captives free and the protector of the poor; as physician to the sick and champion defender of kings, bearer of trophies are you. O great martyr George, intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls.)*

Kontakion Hymn: *Ti Ypermachos...(O Champion General, I your City now ascribe to you triumphant anthems as the tokens of my gratitude, being rescued from the terrors, O Theotokos. Inasmuch as you have power unassailable, from all kinds of perils free me so that unto you I may cry aloud: Rejoice, O unwedded Bride.*

READINGS—EPISTLE: Hebrews 11:24-26, 32-40 / **GOSPEL:** St. John 1:43-51

THE DIVINE LITURGY OF ST. BASIL THE GREAT (See page 125 in our Divine Liturgy Books)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Coffee Hour – Pat Dalkas

PHILOPTOCHOS – SAVE THE DATE! Our annual Philoptochos Membership Luncheon will be on Saturday, March 18. Come to the Philoptochos table and see Carol Lyons to make your reservation for this event. We will need volunteer Hostesses for Coffee Hour in April. If you want to volunteer, think about doing the Coffee Hour jointly with another parishioner. We will have our March Board Meeting on Monday, March 13 at 11:00 a.m. We will not have a General Meeting this month due to the Membership Luncheon.

ALTAR FLOWER BOUQUETS – The Altar Flower Bouquets for God’s glory were donated by: **Rhonda & Nick Latkovic: “In honor of Pauline Latkovic.”**

Bess & John Manesis: “Eternal Rest and loving memories for our families.”

Altar Flower contributors are asked to submit their checks to the office as soon as possible.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY – Circle Sunday, March 19, 2017 on your calendar and plan to join us for the St. George 2017 Spring General Assembly meeting.

ST. GEORGE PARISH FEAST DAY / GOLF TOURNAMENT – The St. George Feast Day is Sunday, April 23, 2017. We are honored to host His Eminence, Metropolitan Gerasimos. St. George Golf Tournament - April 21 – 22, 2017. The registration form is enclosed.

KNITTING CLASS – We will resume our Knitting for cancer patients group meeting on Wednesday March 8th at 5:30 pm. Yarn and needles are supplied. Please RSVP to **Tina Veroulis** or **Rhonda Latkovic** if you plan to attend.

MEN’S BIBLE STUDY GROUP – In response to interest expressed in forming a Men’s Bible Study group, we are scheduling the first Men’s Bible Study for next **Tuesday, March 7, 2017 from 6:30 p.m.-8:00 p.m.** All men are welcome. The particular readings for the Men’s Bible Study are posted in the March 2017 *Voice of St. George*.

YIAYIA’S ATTIC – Yiayia sends a profuse expression of gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this a record-breaking year. Together we netted \$3,200+. Pure profit!! God bless you all. I am personally thrilled and somewhat astounded. ‘Till next year – “Yiayia” Becky.

GREEK STORE SALE – We will be selling the leftover Festival Greek Store grocery items after the Divine Liturgy today. Not many items are left. Please see Rhonda Latkovic and Olympia Fick in the parish hall today.

COLORING GROUP-Our next coloring group session will be **Friday, March 17th** starting at **noon** with lunch. Coloring supplies are supplied. RSVP to **Rhonda Latkovic** by **March 12**.

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Monday, March 6th..... Holy Confession – 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, March 7th.....Bible Study -10:00 a.m. /Men’s Bible Study – 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, March 8th...Knitting Class – 5:30 p.m.

Presanctified Divine Liturgy -6:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 9th.....Choir Practice – 1:00 p.m.

Friday, March 10th.....Presanctified Divine Liturgy-9:00 a.m.

2nd Salutations7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 11th... .Vespers-5:00 p.m.

Jim Christopoulos received an icon of St. Demetrios from the **Parish Council** on March 3 in gratitude for serving as parish **past-President**. He continues to serve as advisor to the Parish Council.

The Ladder for the month of March 2017 is donated by Rhonda & Nick Latkovic in loving memory of Patricia Fleming

We encourage all of our parents to sit in the church with their entire family as they participate in the beauty and mysteries of the Divine Liturgy. For those with young children, feel free to sit near an aisle so that you may easily take your children for a break, as needed. If necessary, we have a “crying room” in the narthex for your use. God Bless.

SERVICE OF THE PROCESSION OF THE HOLY ICONS

Following the conclusion of the Doxology, the altar boys and those participating in the Procession, with Icons, fans and candles, proceed in a counter-clockwise direction, stopping at four stations as the faithful chant: *"Your undefiled icon we venerate Lord, asking for forgiveness of all our faults, O Christ our God; for of Your own will You were pleased to ascend in the flesh upon the Cross to deliver those You created from the bondage of the foe. Wherefore, in thanksgiving we cry to You: You have filled all things with joy, O our Savior, now that You have come to save all the world."*

At the first station, the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the health and salvation of all Orthodox Christians. The priest concludes with: *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind and to You do we give glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit now and forever and to the ages of ages."* The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the second station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the Eternal Life and blessed memory of our sacred forefathers and relatives. The priest concludes: **"For You are the Resurrection, the Life and the Repose..."** The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the third station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the safe-keeping of our Church clergy and lay leaders, parents, grandparents and relatives. The priest concludes with, *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind..."* The faithful then chant the above hymn again.

At the fourth station the Deacon exclaims petitions praying for the safe-keeping of our Church and our general community. As before, the priest concludes with, *"For You are a merciful God Who loves mankind..."*

The Priest then reads the Synodikon Statement, as the faithful follow along:

"As the Prophets beheld; as the Apostles have taught; as the Teachers have dogmatized; as the Universe has agreed; as grace has shown forth: As Truth was revealed; as falsehood has been dissolved; as wisdom has presented; as Christ awarded: Thus we declare; thus we assert; thus we preach Christ our True God, and honor His Saints in words; in writings; in thoughts; in sacrifices; in churches; in Holy Icons; on the one hand worshiping and reverencing Christ as God and Lord, and on the other, honoring them as true servants of the same Lord of all and offering them the proper veneration. This is the Faith of the Apostles; this is the Faith of the Fathers; This is the Faith of the Orthodox. This is the Faith which has established the universe. Furthermore, to these messengers of piety, with brotherly and fatherly love and reverence, in glory and honor of piety for which they fought, we praise and cry out: of all the defenders of Orthodoxy, pious kings, most holy Patriarchs, bishops, teachers, martyrs, confessors, Eternal be their memory." The faithful respond; Memory Eternal; Memory Eternal; Memory Eternal".

The Priest continues: *"We today, entreating God that we be instructed and strengthened by their exploits and struggles and teachings for piety unto death, and praying to become imitators of their Godly life unto the end, may we prove worthy of all these requests by the compassion and grace of Christ the Great and First Arch-Priest and our True God; through the intercessions of our Most Glorious Lady Theotokos and Ever-Virgin Mary, the God-like Angels and all the Saints, Amen."*

Then all the faithful chant: *"Who is so great a God as our God! You are the God Who works wonders."* This stanza is repeated after each of the following verses: — "You have made known Your power to the nations." — "And I said: Now I began to understand; this is a change in the work of the right hand of the Most High." — "I remember the works of the Lord; for I will remember Your wonders from the beginning."

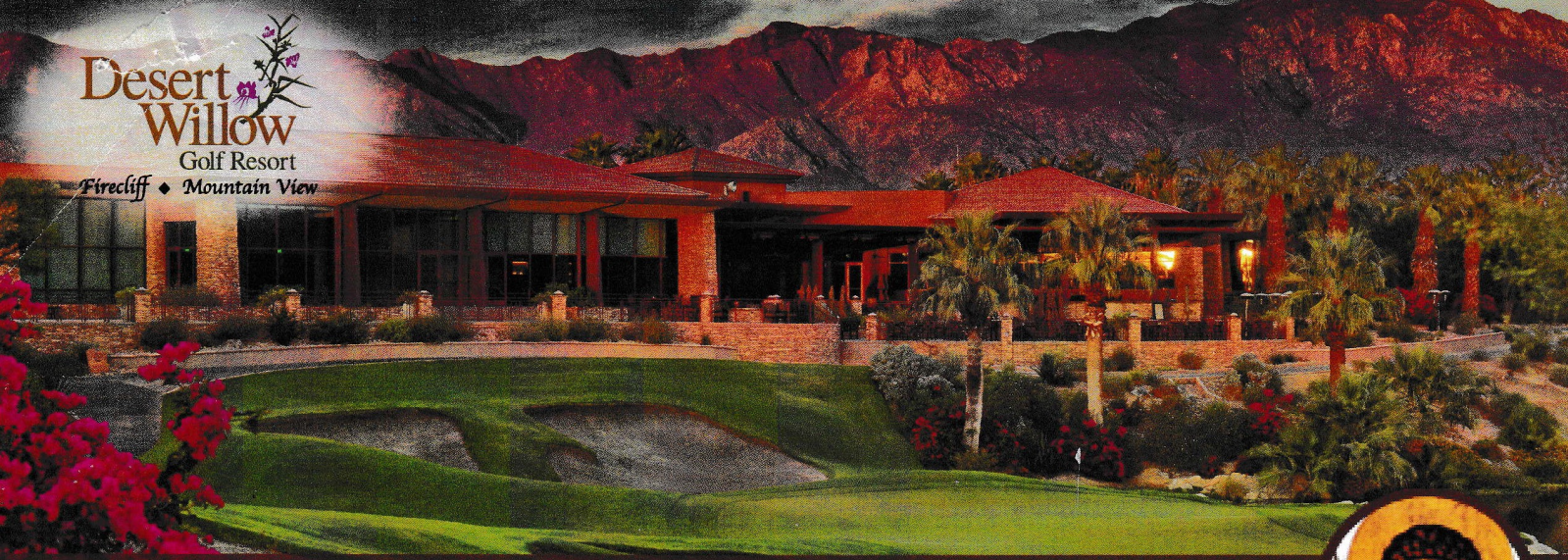
Then, the faithful together read the Creed on page 42 of our Divine Liturgy Books.

The Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great begins.

Desert Willow

Golf Resort

Firecliff ♦ Mountain View



SAINT GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH



FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017 • 2:00PM SHOTGUN | SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017 • 8:00AM SHOTGUN

ENTRY INFORMATION

FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 2017

- **\$125.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 2:00pm Shotgun Start (Stroke Play) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Steak Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

- **\$175.00 per player** (includes golf and dinner)
- 8:00am Shotgun Start (Scramble) at Desert Willow Golf Resort
- 6:00pm Social Hour at St. George Greek Orthodox Church
- 7:00pm Traditional Greek Dinner at St. George Greek Orthodox Church | Silent Auction and Live Music

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

TEE SPONSOR - \$100

Package Includes: One Tee Sign

INDIVIDUAL AND SPONSORSHIPS

- Individual Player(s)
Friday, April 21, 2017 ___ (# of Players) x \$125 \$ _____
- Individual Player(s)
Saturday, April 22, 2017 ___ (# of Players) x \$175 \$ _____
- Tee Sponsorship(s)
_____ (# of Sponsorships) x \$100 \$ _____
- Steak Dinner
Friday, April 21, 2017 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$25 \$ _____
- Traditional Greek
Dinner | Saturday, April 22, 2017 ___ (# of Dinners) x \$35 \$ _____

Total Amount \$ _____

EVENT REGISTRATION

Name _____

Company (Organization) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

PLAYER NAME

1. _____ GHIN# _____

2. _____ GHIN# _____

3. _____ GHIN# _____

4. _____ GHIN# _____

REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: **Saturday, April 15th**

Register Online: www.desertwillow.com/StGeorge

Make Checks Payable To:

“Saint George Greek Orthodox Church”

Send Checks and Registration Form To:

PO Box 4755 | Palm Desert, CA | 92261